

As Isaiah prophesied, Jesus gave his back to those who beat him, his cheeks to those who plucked his beard, not shielding his face from buffets and spitting. The crucifixion of Jesus makes us want to do something in response. Throughout this Lent we have disciplined ourselves to show God we are serious about overcoming our sins. To help you enter this final week of Lent, I'm giving you each a copy of my booklet, *What Am I Doing for Triduum This Year?* It's in your pews. Would you please look it over with me now? After mass you may take it home.

I admit this booklet asks a lot of people. It expects that you will pretty much cancel all other activities from Thursday to Sunday this coming week, come to all the main church services, and spend a great deal of time in private prayer and reflection, doing charity for others, and abstaining from quantities of food and drink. I realize not everyone can do it. But I still want to give you a copy of the book in hopes that you could do at least part of it. After today, if the next spiritual exercise in your life is coming to mass on Easter Sunday, we'll welcome you here – don't get me wrong; but you will have missed out on an opportunity to take advantage of the greatest spiritual help the Church has to offer you every year.

Let me give you a quick tour of this book. On page 3 there is a box where you can write about how you have observed Lent this year. On page 5 you can plan out how you are going to spend next weekend. On page 7, think specifically about Holy Thursday. Make plans now to bring food for the pantry, to have your feet washed during the mass, and to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament sometime between 8 pm and midnight. During that time you can fill out pages 8 and 9.

On page 11, you can plan how to spend Good Friday. We have our main service at 3:00 pm at St. Munchin, but we'll also offer Stations of the Cross at St. Aloysius at 6:30 that night. I urge you to spend some time during the day with any of the exercises from page 12 to 15. After you attend the 3:00 service, you can reflect on what you experienced on pages 16-18 – what it was like to venerate an image of the cross on which Jesus died.

On page 19 you can plan Holy Saturday. The Vigil that night is not just the most important of our Easter masses, it is the most important mass of the whole year. It is long, but it is beautiful. And if you take some time with pages 20-23, you can prepare yourself for the experience. After the Vigil we have a party to celebrate the coming of Easter, and if you get some quiet time on Easter, you can reflect on the meaning of that day with pages 28-31.

The prophecy of Isaiah says, "Morning after morning, the Lord God opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back." If you take some time this week to let God open your ear, you will hear his word. Then you can make a good response to the cross of Christ.